Treasury Department,

Bureau of the Mint,

Washington, D. C. August 30, 1899.

Mr. Richard Wood,
No. 400 Chestnut Street,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

Replying to your inquiries of the 29th, I have to say that the Trade dollar was, as its name indicates, a coin intended for trade purposes, in China and other countries of the East. It was expected to compete successfully with the Mexican dollar, but the projectors unwisely provided that it should contain more silver than the Mexican dollar. They had a theory that this would assist its circulation, while in fact it effectually prevented its circulation. Being more valuable than the Mexican dollar, those who received it preferred to melt it down for the silver it contained rather than pay it out as a dollar. The demand for the foreign trade ceased and it was circulated to a considerable extent in this country, causing confusion and loss to many people upon whom it was passed. The Government accordingly stopped its coinage and provided for the redemption of those outstanding.

The Bland Law, passed in 1878 was repealed by what has been called the "Sherman Act of 1890" This was repealed in 1893. The coinage of silver dollars is now made under the War Revenue Act of 1898, from bullion purchased under the Act of 1890.

The U. S. silver dollars being worth par at home, are worth proximately that all over the world, the discount varying as bankers timate the cost of remittance to this country and the profits they sire to make on the transaction. The coin of course cannot be melt- down and coined into foreign money as is the case with gold, con- quently silver is never taken for foreign payments.

Veyytruly yours,

Geo E Roberts

Director of the Mint.

Treasury Department,
Bureau of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.,

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Mr. Richard Wood,
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Replying to your inquiries of the 29th, I have to say that the Trade dollar was, as its name indicates, a coin intended for trade purposes, in China and other countries of the East. It was expected to compete successfully with the Mexican dollar, but the promoters unwisely provided that it should contain more silver than the Mexican dollar. They had a theory that this would assist its circulation, while in fact it effectually prevented its circulation. Being more valuable than the Mexican dollar, those who received it preferred to melt it down for the silver it contained rather than pay it out as a dollar. The demand for the foreign trade ceased and it was circulated to a considerable extent in this country, causing confusion and loss to many people upon whom it was passed. The Government accordingly stopped its coinage and provided for the redemption of those outstanding.

The Bland Law, passed in 1878 was repealed by what has been called the "Sherman Act of 1890" This was repealed in [November 1] 1893. The coinage of silver dollars is now made under the War Revenue Act of 1898, from bullion purchased under the Act of 1890.

The U.S. silver dollars being worth par at home, are worth approximately that all over the world, the discount varying as bankers estimate the cost of remittances to this country and the profits they desire to make on the transaction. The coin of course cannot be melted down and coined into Foreign money as is the case with gold, consequently silver is never taken for foreign payments.

Very truly yours,
[Signature] George E. Roberts,
Director of the Mint.